

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23262C3

Proposed amendments would consolidate the separate sections of code pertaining to advanced opportunities for secondary students into a single chapter. Additional changes would:

- Remove the 75% cap and convert the dollar amount cap to number of credits for cost reimbursement for juniors and seniors receiving funds for dual credit courses that are not participating in the program known as "Dual Credit for Early Completers,"
- Clarify that policies for participation created at the district level must include timelines that are in alignment with state reporting and reimbursement requirements,
- Clarify that the community college out-of-district tuition payment made by counties pursuant to section 33-2110A, Idaho Code would be covered by program funds,
- Remove the 10% cap on the participation limits for the "8 in 6" program,
- Clarify that for the "8 in 6" program public school includes Idaho Bureau of Indian Education schools for the purpose of this program.
- Amend the definition of "full course load" for the "8 in 6" program to twelve credits.

FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact of converting the amount of the credit for the dual credit program commonly known as the "Fast Forward" program would reduce the value of the credit to students by five dollars (\$5) for each junior and ten dollars (\$10) for each senior. The removal of the 75% cap could potentially increase the credit to students who are only taking one course as juniors or two courses as seniors, but would have no impact on those that were maximizing their credits by taking two (2) or more courses. The removal of the 10% cap on participation by the districts in the "8 in 6" program will not increase the overall cost of the program, but allow for districts that are participating in the program to use funds that are not being used by other districts without going through the current cumbersome process to gain access to those funds. Based on current fiscal year estimates the "Fast Forward" program may cost approximately \$4M for the fall semester, if all students maximize their credits. Historically we have seen a 22% drop in the enrollment between Fall and Spring Semesters. For FY15 the cost to offset payments by the counties is estimated to be between \$700,000 and \$1M.

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